



A Message from **Mayor Sharpe James**

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SIXTH STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

HONORABLE SHARPE JAMES, MAYOR

CITY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

JANUARY 16, 1992



Together, we can make a difference!

REVERENDS ABI CASTRO AND CHRISTINE LESLIE. REVEREND CLERGY. MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL. ACTING BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR, MR. GLENN GRANT, DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS, DEPUTY MAYOR QUINTANA, MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, ELECTED OFFICIALS, HONORED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TONIGHT AND WELCOME TO ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE'S MARY BURCH AUDITORIUM. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK PRESIDENT DR. A. ZACHARY YAMBA AND THE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR ALLOWING US THE USE OF THIS BEAUTIFUL FACILITY.

NEWARK

TONIGHT WE THANK RICHARD MONTEILH, OUR FORMER BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR, WHO HAS BEEN SELECTED TO WORK WITH THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA WHICH IS PREPARING TO HOST THE 1996 SUMMER OLYMPICS. HE WAS AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR, AND WE WISH HIM EVERY SUCCESS AS HE RETURNS TO ATLANTA.

WHILE WE REGRET LOSING AN OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATOR, WE WELCOME OUR FORMER CORPORATION COUNSEL AND NOW ACTING BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR, MR. GLENN GRANT, WHOSE CREDENTIALS, EXPERIENCE AND BACKGROUND ARE OUTSTANDING. IN THE PAST YEAR WE ALSO WELCOMED A HIGHLY DECORATED AND COMMUNITY-ORIENTED, NEW POLICE DIRECTOR, MR WILLIAM CELESTER, TO THE CITY OF NEWARK AND APPOINTED MS. BOBI RUFFIN, THE FORMER HEAD OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, TO DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. WE HAVE AN OUTSTANDING TEAM OF ADMINISTRATORS WORKING FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, AND I WISH TO PERSONALLY SALUTE THEM.

THIS IS MY SIXTH STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS AND BY FAR ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT. TONIGHT WE MEET AT AN EXTRAORDINARY TIME IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS. OUR NATION FACES THE CHALLENGES OF BUILDING A NEW AND MORE LASTING PEACE ABROAD AND REBUILDING AMERICA AT HOME.

IN 1991 WE CELEBRATED NEWARK'S 325TH BIRTHDAY. AND JUST AS NEWARK'S HISTORY HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT OF A ROLLER COASTER RIDE WITH GREAT CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC HIGHS AND LOWS, OUR BIRTHDAY YEAR SAW GREAT TRIUMPHS AND SUCCESSES AS WELL AS SOME HARDSHIPS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS. CLEARLY IT WAS THE BEST AND WORST OF TIMES.

WE ARE MOST PROUD THAT IN 1991, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, BECAME THE FIRST CITY TO WIN THE TRIPLE CROWN. NEWARK WON THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADMINISTRATION AWARD (EPA) FOR RECYCLING AND CONCERNS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT; WE WERE NAMED ONE OF TEN ALL AMERICAN CITIES; AND, WE WON THE HIGHEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS HONOR OF ALL, THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS "CITY LIVABILITY AWARD."

I WISH TO SALUTE THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, CLERGY AND CITIZENS WHO HELPED TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE. OUR AWARDS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE

WHAT WE CAN DO WHEN WE ALL PULL TOGETHER. 1991 WAS A YEAR OF GREAT TEAMWORK AND ONE OF OUR FINEST HOURS.

YET, IN SPITE OF OUR SUCCESSES, NEWARK HAS NOT BEEN IMMUNE TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING CITIES AND TOWNS ACROSS AMERICA.

T H E N A T I O N

MOST RECENTLY ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN COMPANIES, GENERAL MOTORS, ANNOUNCED PLANS TO LAY-OFF 74,000 EMPLOYEES AND CLOSE 21 PLANTS. IBM, SEARS, MACY'S AND SEAMAN'S FURNITURE STORE HAVE ANNOUNCED SIMILAR ACTIONS.

ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES, FOUR OUT OF SEVEN AMERICAN CITIES ARE EXPERIENCING A FISCAL CRISIS. BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT HAS FILED FOR BANKRUPTCY; CHELSEA, MASSACHUSETTS IS RUNNING OUT OF MONEY; EAST ST. LOUIS HAD TO SELL ITS CITY HALL; PHILADELPHIA IS IN SEVERE TROUBLE; AND

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND, WHICH HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST PER FAMILY INCOMES IN AMERICA, IS EXPERIENCING A RECORD \$185 MILLION DEFICIT.

THE STATES OF NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, CALIFORNIA, CONNECTICUT AND OUR OWN STATE OF NEW JERSEY ARE FACING FISCAL PROBLEMS.

WE ADD TO THIS THE PROBLEMS OF DRUGS, CRIME, POVERTY, AIDS, HOMELESSNESS, RISING UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE LACK OF A QUALITY EDUCATION. EVEN THE AMERICAN DREAM OF HOME OWNERSHIP HAS BECOME JUST THAT, A DREAM.

AS I LOOK AT OUR NATION, I AM DISTRESSED BY AN AMERICA WHERE 10 AND 13 YEAR OLD CHILDREN CONTINUE TO STEAL CARS FOR RECREATION. WHERE YOUNG AND OLD SLEEP ON PARK BENCHES OR USE BUS TERMINALS, TRAIN STATIONS, OR THE MUSEUM AND LIBRARY AS THEIR HOME.

AN AMERICA WHERE THE PRESIDENT, IN AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE HIS POPULARITY, NAMED MAGIC

JOHNSON TO HIS AIDS COMMISSION. MAGIC JOHNSON DOES NOT NEED AN AIDS COMMISSION. MAGIC JOHNSON NEEDS A CURE. AND WE NEED A NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM. 37 MILLION AMERICANS HAVE NO HEALTH INSURANCE TO PROTECT THEM OR THEIR FAMILIES.

THERE IS NO MAGIC IN THE FACT THAT HEALTH CARE AND MUCH-NEEDED HOSPITALIZATION ARE UNFORTUNATELY BASED ON ONE'S ABILITY TO PAY. POVERTY AND POOR HEALTH ARE RISING TOGETHER. THE RICH GET WELL AND THE POOR GET BURIED.

I AM SADDENED BY AN AMERICA IN WHICH A NEO-NAZI AND FORMER KU KLUX KLAN MEMBER, DAVID DUKE, CAN RECEIVE 40% OF THE VOTES IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR, AND IS NOW AN ANNOUNCED CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT.

I AM SADDENED BY AN AMERICA WHERE NINE LIVES WERE SENSELESSLY LOST AND MANY MORE INJURED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO ENTER A CHARITY BASKETBALL GAME IN

NEW YORK CITY. HUMAN BEINGS CLEARLY OUT OF CONTROL AND LACKING IN SELF CONTROL.

I AM DISHEARTENED BY AN AMERICA WHERE A GANG OF WHITE TEEN-AGERS ATTACKED AND SPRAYED WHITE, A 14 YEAR OLD AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOY AND HIS 12 YEAR OLD SISTER ON THEIR WAY TO SCHOOL. FOLLOWED BY A HISPANIC YOUTH BEING SPRAYED WHITE. CLEARLY, AMERICA IS ON TRIAL. AMERICA IS AT A CROSSROADS. FOR IF WE CANNOT STAND TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE, THEN SURELY WE WILL PERISH SEPARATELY AS FOOLS. BUT, THERE IS NO OFFER OF HELP OR LEADERSHIP FROM FAR TOO MANY STATE HOUSES, CONGRESS OR THE WHITE HOUSE.

DESPITE OUR OBVIOUS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, WE HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO HAS BECOME THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD APPEARING TO FORGET ABOUT HIS OATH OF OFFICE TO SERVE AMERICA FIRST. A PRESIDENT WHO DEMANDED THAT WE FIGHT A \$500 MILLION A DAY WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF TO SAVE THE OIL RICH, ROYAL FAMILY OF KUWAIT, WHILE OPPOSING CIVIL RIGHTS HERE IN AMERICA.

LET US NOT FORGET THAT THE YOUNGEST AMERICAN TO DIE IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR, WAS A NEWARKER, 18 YEAR OLD PVT. ROBERT TALLEY, A RECENT GRADUATE OF BARRINGER HIGH SCHOOL. A YOUNG MAN WHO WANTED TO BECOME A DOCTOR. TONIGHT WE SALUTE ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN FROM OUR CITY WHO SERVED IN THE PERSIAN GULF. OUR HEARTS AND HOPES ARE WITH THEM IN RECOGNIZING THEIR SACRIFICE FOR THE NATION. WE BELIEVE IT IS NOW TIME TO MAKE AN EQUAL COMMITMENT TO REBUILDING AMERICA.

YET, WE HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO FIRST STATED THAT THERE WAS NO RECESSION, THEN CORRECTED HIMSELF TO SAY THAT IT WAS A MILD RECESSION; THEN FURTHER SHOCKED EVERYONE BY SAYING THAT THE RECESSION WAS OVER. A PRESIDENT WHO WANTS TO PROVIDE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO AID MOSCOW.

BUT WHAT ABOUT NEWARK, NEW YORK CITY, DETROIT, PHILADELPHIA AND OTHER CITIES DESPERATELY IN NEED OF FISCAL HELP? CITIES WHERE RESIDENTS ARE CRYING FOR

SAFE, DECENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING, QUALITY EDUCATION, BETTER HEALTH CARE AND IMPROVED PUBLIC SAFETY.

IF WE CAN AFFORD UNLIMITED SPENDING TO BAIL OUT THE NATION'S SAVINGS AND LOAN BANDITS; IF WE CAN AFFORD UNLIMITED DOLLARS AND LIVES FOR DESERT STORM; IF WE CAN BAIL OUT THE SOVIET UNION AND KUWAIT; THEN SURELY WE CAN AFFORD TO BAIL OUT AMERICA BY INVESTING IN OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE AND THE COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS THAT ARE SO VITAL TO ITS FABRIC.

HAVING SAID ALL THIS, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH TODAY. THE PRESIDENT INVITED THE OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES (NLC) REPRESENTING OVER 17,000 CITIES AND TOWNS TO MEET WITH HIM TODAY AT 10:30 AM IN THE WHITE HOUSE. AS THE RECENTLY ELECTED 2ND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NLC, I PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING.

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

HERE IN NEW JERSEY'S LARGEST CITY, WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO TAKE DRASTIC FISCAL AND PERSONNEL ACTIONS TO OVERCOME A \$41 MILLION BUDGET GAP IN THE 1992 MUNICIPAL BUDGET. THESE MOVES HAVE BEEN PROMPTED BY COSTS OVER WHICH THE CITY HAS NO CONTROL AND A SLUMP IN REVENUES FUELED BY THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

ALSO, THE RECESSION HAS LEFT SOME OF OUR CITIZENS UNABLE TO PAY THEIR PROPERTY TAXES AND OTHER MUNICIPAL DEBTS, RESULTING IN EVEN FURTHER REVENUE SHORTFALLS.

BUT CLEARLY THIS BUDGET GAP IS NOT OF OUR MAKING. IN FACT, MOST MUNICIPALITIES ARE FACING SEVERE FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS THROUGH NO FAULT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

TO SAVE OUR CITIES, WE MUST LOBBY AGAINST FEDERAL AND STATE MANDATES THAT DRASTICALLY ESCALATE COSTS AT

THE LOCAL LEVEL WITHOUT SUPPLYING FUNDS TO COVER THESE COSTS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DEMANDED AN END TO OCEAN DUMPING BY DECEMBER 31, 1991, BUT THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY WENT EVEN FURTHER AND DECIDED TO END OCEAN DUMPING BY MARCH OF 1991.

TO ACHIEVE THIS MANDATE THE PASSAIC VALLEY SEWERAGE COMMISSION, AN AUTONOMOUS BODY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT, IS SPENDING \$65 MILLION DOLLARS, AND ACCORDINGLY, HAS BILLED NEWARK FOR ITS SHARE, A WHOPPING \$21 MILLION. NEITHER THE FEDERAL NOR STATE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN NEWARK \$1 TO MEET THIS UNANTICIPATED AND ASTRONOMICAL COST!

COUPLED WITH THIS HAVE BEEN THE RECKLESS BEHAVIOR OF THE PVSC IN TERMS OF ADMINISTRATIVE SALARIES (THEIR EXECUTIVES MAKE MORE THAN THE GOVERNOR), HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE OPERATING EXPENSES AND EXTENSIVE TRAVEL AND PERKS TO ITS COMMISSIONERS. THIS AGENCY (PVSC) IS FISCALLY OUT OF CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABLE TO NO ONE,

ACCORDING TO COMMISSIONER OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, MR.
RANDY PRIMAS.

TONIGHT, I AM CALLING ON THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO
INVESTIGATE THE PROCEDURES AND SPENDING PRACTICES
OF THE PVSC. THIS IS NOT A POLITICAL ISSUE, IT'S AN
ECONOMIC ISSUE WHICH FURTHER BURDENS THE TAXPAYERS
OF NEWARK.

I AM ALSO URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO REPEAL OR
RESTRICT THE PRACTICE OF BINDING ARBITRATION.
CITIES ARE BEING VICTIMIZED BY STATE APPOINTED
ARBITRATORS WHO RULE IN FAVOR OF EXORBITANT SALARY
INCREASES FOR SPECIFIC MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES. THIS
FORCES CITIES TO REDUCE SERVICES AND LAY-OFF
PERSONNEL TO STAY WITHIN OUR BUDGET CAPS. THE SALARY
FOR ALL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE A LOCAL
DECISION BASED ON THE ABILITY OF THE MUNICIPALITY TO
PAY.

IN 1992 WE ALSO ANTICIPATE INCREASED COSTS IN EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS, INCREASED COSTS FOR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND INCREASED COSTS FOR EMPLOYEE PENSIONS. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT OUR TAX PAYMENTS TO ESSEX COUNTY WILL INCREASE DUE TO A LOSS OF REVENUE FROM SUCCESSFUL COUNTY TAX APPEALS. WE, ALSO RATHER UNFORTUNATELY, EXPECT A LOSS IN STATE AID FROM A REPUBLICAN CONTROLLED STATE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE.

TO MAKE CITIES AND TOWNS ACROSS NEW JERSEY WHOLE I CALL FOR A BIPARTISAN EFFORT IN THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE AS OPPOSED TO SELF-SERVING PARTISAN POLITICS. THE ISSUE IS NOT ABOUT DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OR REPUBLICAN CONTROL, THE REAL ISSUE IS ABOUT LOWER TAXES AND FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY WITH TAX DOLLARS.

TO ADDRESS THIS ANTICIPATED SHORTFALL, I HAVE INSTITUTED THE FOLLOWING MEASURES THAT WILL PRESERVE OUR DELIVERY OF SERVICES; ALLOW US TO REMAIN SENSITIVE TO THE POOR AND DISADVANTAGED AND ENABLE

US TO CONTINUE OUR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND DOWNTOWN.

FIRST, TO STABILIZE THE CITY'S TREASURY WE HAVE INSTITUTED A SPENDING FREEZE ON ALL UNNECESSARY MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES.

SECOND, WE HAVE INSTITUTED A "JOB FREEZE" IN WHICH WE WILL REPLACE OR HIRE ONLY ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL.

THIRD, WE HAVE CALLED FOR A 15% ACROSS THE BOARD CUT IN EACH DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY. THE CHALLENGE FOR EVERY DIRECTOR IS TO BECOME MORE CREATIVE AND TO DO MORE WITH LESS. EACH DEPARTMENT WAS ASKED TO MAKE THESE CUTS WITHOUT IMPACTING UPON ITS DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

AND, RATHER PAINFULLY, WE HAVE INITIATED THE LAY-OFF OF SOME 200 PLUS MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES. THIS IS NEVER A PLEASANT TASK.

WE ARE EVEN FACING THE MOST DIFFICULT DECISION OF ALL, THE POSSIBLE LAY-OFF OF NEWARK'S FINEST, OUR POLICE OFFICERS. I WISH TO COMMEND THE FIRE UNION OFFICIALS WHO MET WITH THE ADMINISTRATION AND ADOPTED A PLAN WHICH WILL AVERT THE LAY-OFF OF FIRE FIGHTERS. WE THANK THEM FOR CARING ABOUT THEIR FELLOW WORKERS AND THE CITY OF NEWARK. THE POLICE UNIONS HAVE THE OPTION TO ADOPT THE SAME PLAN. THERE IS NO QUICK FIX TO CLOSING A \$41 MILLION BUDGET GAP.

TWO WEEKS AGO WE REORGANIZED THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE, DIVISIONS OF DATA PROCESSING AND PARKS AND GROUNDS AND ELIMINATED THE OFFICE OF CITIZEN SERVICES. SOME MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS WERE CONSOLIDATED, SOME NON-ESSENTIAL POSITIONS WERE ELIMINATED AND SOME EMPLOYEES WERE TRANSFERRED TO REDUCE OPERATING COSTS.

TO INCREASE PROPERTY TAX COLLECTIONS, THE CITY OF NEWARK OFFERED AN AMNESTY PROGRAM. WE FORGAVE

ALL 1991 DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAX INTEREST FOR THOSE WHO PAID THEIR TAXES BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1991. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE PROGRAM WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. IN ONLY 30 DAYS WE COLLECTED OVER A HALF MILLION DOLLARS IN REVENUE.

ONCE AGAIN, WE HAVE ASKED THE NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION TO BECOME FISCALLY ACCOUNTABLE IN THE EXPENDITURE OF SCHOOL FUNDS. FOR TOO LONG THERE HAS BEEN NO CORRELATION BETWEEN INCREASED SPENDING AND INCREASED LEARNING. I ALSO URGE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO UNDERTAKE A CONSOLIDATION OF OUR SCHOOL FACILITIES IN REFLECTING A DECREASE IN OUR SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FROM 80,000 IN 1970, TO OUR CURRENT ENROLLMENT OF ABOUT 45,000.

WE HAVE ALSO INSTRUCTED OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL WASHINGTON BASED LOBBYIST TO BECOME EVEN MORE VIGOROUS IN RESEARCHING AND IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE FEDERAL DOLLARS TO ASSIST THE CITY.

IN FACING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, WE REALIZE THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE CANNOT CHANGE BY OURSELVES. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE NEED WASHINGTON AND THE PRESIDENT TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE URBAN CRISIS HERE AT HOME. AMERICA MUST INVEST IN THE HUMAN AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF OUR NATION'S CITIES AND TOWNS. OUR PRIORITIES CANNOT SIMPLY LIE OVERSEAS.

BUT TONIGHT IS NOT ALL BAD NEWS. WE DID HAVE SOME SUCCESSES IN 1991 AND LOOK FOR MORE IN 1992. EVEN AGAINST THE ODDS WE WERE ABLE TO CLIMB THE ROUGH SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN.

GOOD NEWS PAST AND PRESENT

OF COURSE NEWARK WON THREE MAJOR NATIONAL AWARDS IN 1991.

ALSO, LAST YEAR, IN THE BEST EXAMPLE OF A PRIVATE PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP, NATIONAL AMUSEMENTS HOSTED A

GALA OPENING OF ITS 12-PLEX STATE OF THE ART "ALL JERSEY MULTIPLEX CINEMAS," THE FIRST NEW MOVIE THEATER BUILT IN NEWARK IN FIFTY YEARS.

THE OPENING NIGHT WILL LONG BE REMEMBERED FOR ITS FUN AND EXCITEMENT. AND, AS PROMISED, THIS SPRING WE WILL START CONSTRUCTION OF A 6-PLEX LOEWS THEATER AT BERGEN STREET AND SPRINGFIELD AVENUE. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO STEP OFF THE BUS AND INTO ANOTHER STATE OF THE ART MOVIE THEATER. WE ARE PROUD TO SAY THAT NEWARK IS BACK IN THE FAMILY MOVIE BUSINESS AGAIN.

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT PLANS BY THE CITY AND COUNTY ARE NEARING COMPLETION FOR A WORLD CLASS ROLLER SKATING RINK IN BRANCH BROOK PARK. WE PLAN TO GO ROLLER SKATING IN NEWARK IN 1992. HISTORY TEACHES US THAT WE WILL EITHER RECREATE OR INCARCERATE OUR CHILDREN. FAR TOO MANY OF OUR YOUNGSTERS MOVE FROM THE SUPERVISION OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS TO THE SUPERVISION OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF JAILS. HERE IN NEWARK, WITH THE

CONTINUED HELP OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXPAND OUR RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL OFFERINGS FOR THE YOUNG AND OLD.

LAST YEAR WE HELD OUR FIRST CITY-WIDE CARNIVAL IN JESSE ALLEN PARK, TO RAISE MONIES TO PURCHASE FOOD, CLOTHING AND TOYS FOR THE NEEDY DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. THE CARNIVAL WAS A HUGE SUCCESS WITH CHILDREN AND ADULTS ENJOYING THE MANY RIDES, GAMES OF CHANCE AND REFRESHMENTS. THE CARNIVAL WILL BE BIGGER AND BETTER IN 1992 AND WE WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST MORE NEEDY FAMILIES.

NEWARK ALSO HOSTED THE WORLD PREMIERE OF THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS OPERA, WRITTEN BY THE RENOWN AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMPOSER, ULYSSES KAY. THIS RED CARPET EVENT DREW A STANDING ROOM ONLY AUDIENCE AND RECEIVED FAVORABLE REVIEWS.

THE FIRST SARAH VAUGHAN JAZZ FESTIVAL, A 12-DAY SALUTE TO NEWARK'S OWN MISS SASSY OR THE DIVINE ONE,

ATTRACTED PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND PROVED AN INCREDIBLE, ROUSING SUCCESS. THE SOUNDS OF "JAZZ" ECHOED THROUGHOUT NEWARK AND ESSEX COUNTY. IT WAS LIKE SARAH HAD COME HOME ONCE AGAIN.

EARLIER I SPOKE ABOUT THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS IN AMERICA. TO ADDRESS THE GROWING NUMBER OF HIV POSITIVE AND AIDS PATIENTS, NEWARK WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE LEAD AGENCY IN PROVIDING EMERGENCY CARE USING A \$4.1 MILLION DOLLAR FEDERAL GRANT. WE WILL ALSO STRESS ABSTINENCE AND THE USE OF APPROPRIATE PROTECTION AS VIABLE PREVENTION METHODS AGAINST AIDS. ON A PERSONAL NOTE I AM NOT OF THE OPINION THAT HANDING OUT CONDOMS ALONG WITH GRAHAM CRACKERS AND MILK TO SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN IS A REAL SOLUTION IN COMBATING THIS DREADFUL DISEASE.

ON A POSITIVE NOTE, LAST YEAR AFTER EXPERIENCING A MEASLES OUTBREAK, OUR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INITIATED A MEASLES IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR ALL PRE SCHOOL CHILDREN. THIS MUCH-

NEEDED PROGRAM ENABLED THE CITY TO ARREST THIS INFECTION IN A TIMELY FASHION SAVING MANY CHILDREN FROM THE AGONY AND HARDSHIP OF MEASLES.

TO ASSIST THE HOMELESS POPULATION, WE ARE REHABILITATING A SECOND BUILDING ON GRAND AVENUE TO PROVIDE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS. AS THE BIBLE SO CORRECTLY STATES, WHAT YOU DO FOR THE LEAST OF MY PEOPLE YOU DO FOR ME. IT IS THEM TODAY, IT COULD BE US TOMORROW.

IN REVIEWING SOME OF OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, NEW JERSEY TRANSIT HAS MOVED INTO ITS NEW CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS ON RAYMOND BLVD. THE OPENING OF THE HARTZ MOUNTAIN/ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE DOWNTOWN PARKING GARAGE ON UNIVERSITY AVENUE HAS BEEN A HUGE SUCCESS.

SOON WE EXPECT TO BREAK GROUND FOR A \$79 MILLION NEW CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ADJACENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY OF NEW JERSEY. THIS WORLD-

CLASS FACILITY IS A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN UMDNJ AND UNITED HOSPITALS MEDICAL CENTER AND WILL FURTHER ENHANCE NEWARK'S PRESTIGE AS A CENTER FOR MEDICINE AND RESEARCH.

THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., FEDERAL COURTHOUSE IS NEARING COMPLETION, ALONG WITH THE NEW CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS FOR BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD AND THE SETON HALL LAW SCHOOL-BELLEMEAD COMMERCIAL PROJECT. ALL THREE WILL OPEN THEIR DOORS FOR BUSINESS IN 1992. ALSO WE HAVE FINALIZED PLANS FOR A NEW FEDERAL POST OFFICE TO BE BUILT ON SPRINGFIELD AVENUE. AND THE METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH AND SCHOOL, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE REVEREND DR. B. F. JOHNSON, WILL OPEN ITS DOORS IN 1992.

AFTER SOME SIX YEARS AND MANY DELAYS BY THE STATE, THE MUCH-AWAITED REOPENING OF THE JACKSON STREET BRIDGE WILL OCCUR IN TWO WEEKS. THIS WILL EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND INCREASE ACCESS TO OUR IRONBOUND SECTION. I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT

PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR THE ROUTE 280 DOWNTOWN CONNECTOR ARE NEARING COMPLETION.

MEANWHILE FAMILIES HAVE MOVED INTO VICTORY GARDENS, THE FIRST HOUSING EVER BUILT BY THE CITY OF NEWARK. K. HOVNANIAN HAS BEGUN ITS NEXT PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION ON THE AWARD-WINNING SOCIETY HILL TOWNHOUSE COMPLEX AND IN 1992 WILL BUILD A BEAUTIFUL SHOPPING MALL TO SERVICE THIS COMMUNITY.

WE ARE MOST PROUD THAT WE HAVE USED THE FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE MT. LAUREL RULING TO REHAB AND CONSTRUCT AFFORDABLE RENTAL AND FOR SALE HOUSING UNITS THROUGHOUT EVERY WARD OF THIS CITY.

AS FOR THE HUE AND CRY FOR MORE LOW INCOME HOUSING; THE NEWARK HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS THE STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITY FOR BUILDING AND MAINTAINING SAFE, DECENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PREVIOUS NHA ADMINISTRATION FAILED TO MEET THIS MANDATE HAVING BUILT ONLY ONE HOUSE IN THE LAST SIX

YEARS. HOWEVER, I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT THE NEWLY APPOINTED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, IN THEIR EXECUTIVE SEARCH WILL FIND A HIGHLY QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL TO BUILD SAFE, DECENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

DESPITE THE NATIONAL RECESSION, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN NEWARK REMAINS STRONG. THE NEW JERSEY STATE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER HAS RAISED ALMOST \$45 MILLION IN PRIVATE DONATIONS, AND WITH THE PLEDGED ASSISTANCE BY GOVERNOR JIM FLORIO IN HIS STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS ON TUESDAY, GROUNDBREAKING WILL BE A REALITY IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

LAST WEEK WE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT FIRM OF COOPERS AND LYBRAND HAS BEEN HIRED TO RESEARCH THE MARKETING, FINANCING AND SITING OF A MAJOR, INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTER IN NEWARK. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE STATE'S ENDORSEMENT, AND WITH THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THIS FACILITY WILL BE BUILT.

BY THE END OF THIS DECADE, NEWARK WILL INDEED BE A WORLD-CLASS CONVENTION CITY CAPABLE OF COMPETING WITH THE NEW YORK'S, LONDON'S, PARIS', AND TOKYO'S AROUND THE GLOBE. THE CONVENTION CENTER WILL BRING HUNDREDS OF JOBS, RATABLES AND REVENUES TO NEWARK.

LAST WEEK GOVERNOR FLORIO WELCOMED UNITED STATES SENATOR FRANK LAUTENBERG AND CONGRESSMAN BOB ROE TO NEWARK PENN STATION. THEY DID NOT COME EMPTY HANDED. CONGRESSMAN ROE AND SENATOR LAUTENBERG BROUGHT A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT \$5.6 BILLION FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO FUND TRANSIT PROJECTS. \$634 MILLION WAS COMMITTED TO TRANSIT PROJECTS IN NORTH JERSEY, INCLUDING THE URBAN CORE PROJECTS, WHICH WILL PROVIDE SEVERAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK (ROUTE 21, OUR RAIL LINK STUDY, ROAD AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT GREATER NEWARK).

IN 1992 PUBLIC SAFETY SHALL REMAIN OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY. TO BRING ABOUT GREATER POLICE SURVEILLANCE

IN OUR SHOPPING AREAS, WE HAVE INSTALLED VIDEO SCREENS IN OUR BROAD AND MARKET STREET KIOSK AND HIDDEN CAMERAS AT VARIOUS VANTAGE POINTS THROUGHOUT THE DOWNTOWN AREA. THIS STATE OF THE ART EQUIPMENT ALLOWS A SINGLE POLICE OFFICER TO MONITOR AND SERVICE AN AREA IN EXCESS OF TWO MILES. THE OFFICER CAN ZOOM IN AT PARTICULAR LOCATIONS, RECORD ACTIVITIES AND SUMMON POLICE SUPPORT IF NECESSARY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO EXPANDING THIS OPERATION TO OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY.

FINALLY, AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, LAST YEAR WE HELD OUR FIRST EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT CALLING FOR A PARTNERSHIP OF THE ENTIRE CITY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN THE CITY OF NEWARK. IN 1992, EDUCATION MUST BE ONE OF OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES, OUR CHILDREN MUST LEARN IF THEY ARE TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY; IF THEY ARE TO COMPETE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD; AND, HAVE A ROLE IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY. THEY MUST BE PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS AND HAVE THE SKILLS TO QUALIFY

FOR JOBS IN THE BUILDINGS BEING BUILT TO BE A PART OF OUR ONGOING RENAISSANCE.

AS I CLOSE, THE CITY HELD TWO MAJOR PROGRAMS AT SYMPHONY HALL TO CELEBRATE THE 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., PERHAPS THE 20TH CENTURY'S LEADING CITIZEN AND HUMANITARIAN...AND I CONGRATULATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT DONALD TUCKER FOR SPEARHEADING THIS EFFORT.

WHILE BOTH OF THE PROGRAMS WERE OUTSTANDING, I TOOK PARTICULAR PLEASURE IN LOOKING OUT AT THE FACES OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE; 2,000 STUDENTS FROM OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. MANY OF THEIR PARENTS WERE ONLY CHILDREN WHEN DR. KING WAS FELLED BY AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET ON THE BALCONY OF THE LORRAINE MOTEL IN MEMPHIS THAT FATEFUL APRIL 4, 1968. THESE YOUNGSTERS IN THE AUDIENCE SAT QUIETLY IN THEIR SEATS, WELL-BEHAVED AND ATTENTIVE; RECEPTIVE AND INTERESTED IN THE PROGRAM. THEY ARE OUR FUTURE, AND AS I LOOKED AT THEM, I THOUGHT, THESE KIDS CAN HOLD THEIR OWN WITH THE BEST

AND BRIGHTEST. ALL THEY NEED IS A CHANCE AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT TO BELIEVE THEY CAN DO ANYTHING THEY WANT.

(STORY OF ISAAC AND HIS FAVORITE SON JOSEPH, WHO WAS A DREAMER AND ON WHOM ISAAC BESTOWED A COAT OF MANY COLORS)